

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 18-32, 35, 36, 38-40, 42-47, 50-55, 57, 58, and 60-62 are presently pending in this case, Claims 3, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18-32, 35, 42-44, 50, 57, 58, 60, and 62 having been amended and Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 16, 17, 33, 34, 37, 41, 48, 49, 56, and 59 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present Amendment.

Claims 1, 2, and 16-62 have been withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected species. However, after further review of the claims and the species identified in the Election of Species Requirement dated March 20, 2006, the Applicant submits that pending Claims 35, 36, 38-40, and 50 also read on the elected species, and therefore respectfully request the consideration thereof. Additionally, please note that all of the pending claims are either directed to the elected species or are dependent upon a generic linking claim.

In the Official Action, Claim 12 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of allowable Claim 12 and intervening Claim 9 have been incorporated into base Claim 3, and therefore Claim 3 is allowable and the art rejection thereof is moot. Thus, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3, and Claims 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15, which depend therefrom.

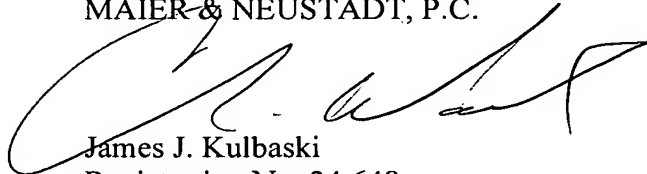
Furthermore, the Applicant notes that independent Claims 35 and 50 have also been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, and therefore these claims and all claims that depend therefrom are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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